

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 2, 1904, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Albemarle Hotel, Madison Square, West, New York, New York. (May 2, 1904.AGB) Alec dear:

It was awfully hard to leave you, feeling so blue and ill, but I am glad I came on for I feel that we will both be better satisfied since I know just how Daisy is to be situated. I like Mr. Borglum very much, he is not a young man but you feel that he is one whom you can trust, a simple kindly man, enthusiastic about his art. He told Daisy that what she had to do was to get her own models and things and work out her own conceptions and he would help her with the technique. She said the trouble with her was she had no ideas, he replied she must get them, it was no use working without them. I asked whether she could not study the technique while she was waiting for the ideas and he said no, they must be studied together, that she must have a hundred ideas. Then he brought out his sketches to show how he got his ideas. Many were the merest pencil scrawls, just indications of things he saw in passing, but many are embodied in his sculptures and paintings and it is very interesting to see the development of the idea. Daisy is now working hard evolving an idea. She has several pictures on her mind of the McCurdy boys working on their boat, but she says the mere picture of a boy on a boat is not enough, he must represent something.

Miss Tarbel was most kind, took us to the boarding place she spoke of, it is very nice, quiet, intensely respectable and the 2 head is a kindly, gray-haired, motherly lady who would, I am sure, look after Daisy, but Miss Tarbel has still another idea, to go with some friends of hers which she thinks would be entirely satisfactory to you. Daisy is so pleased and happy at the idea of going to work in such inspiring surroundings and just wants to be allowed to throw herself wholly into the work for the month she is to be here, to have nothing to take her mind off it.

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Much love to you. I expect to return Thursday.

Lovingly always, Mabel.